COMMITTEES:

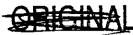
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY COMMERCE, THADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

> RESOURCES WATER AND POWER VICE-CHAMMAN



GREG WALDEN



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 3,2003

Ms.Marlene Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission CY-B402 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 03-11

Dear Madam Secretary:

2D DISTRICT, DREGON MAJORITY WHO

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE: 1404 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702 TELEPHONE: (202) 225-6730

> DISTRICT OFFICES: 843 EAST MAIN STREET Suite 400 MedPord, OR 97504 TELEPHONE: (541) 778-4648 TOLL FREE: (800) 533-3303

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FEB - 4 2003

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

I would like to take this opportunity lo share with you my support for Qwest Communications' application to provide long distance service in the state of Oregon. I have heard from many communities in my district who support this application and would like to share my request for approval of **Qwest's** application.

I represent the Second Congressional **District** which is a vast territory covering **roughly** two thirds of the state of Oregon. This area of the state is largely dependent on natural resources and agriculture for the mainstay of its economy while the remainder of the state has a more urban economy. Oregon truly exhibits the potential for a digital divide.

I have been pleased to hear of Owest's efforts over **the** past three years **to** help address this divide. It's my understanding that Quest has invested \$120 million to install highspeed Internet connections in elementary and middle schools and has installed two-way interactive video equipment in every Oregon high school. I also understand that Qwest is building five fiber rings around the state that will bring new economic development opportunities to areas of the state that have typically been passed over. With the state of Oregon facing one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, Qwest's investments and their potential economic development benefits are well timed,

I have worked with representatives of Qwest for several years and appreciate their investment in Oregon's communities. I know that **they** pride themselves **on** the considerable amount of time, resources and effort they have put forth to ensure that their network is open to competition. I appreciate Qwest's efforts to make it as easy as possible for their network to be accessible to competitors.

02/04/2003 11:08 FAX 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch
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Many of the communities I have heard from inmy district feel that Qwest's ability to provide long distance service will not only mean more choices, lower prices and better service for long distance callers in the region, but it will also mean more jobs for our local communities. In Oregon, and particularly in mal Oregon, this growth in our communities is much needed.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments and encourage you to support Qwest's application to provide long distance service to all Oregonians who want it.

Best regards,

Greg Walden